

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0619
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURH

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0064

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, FR
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE FIRST ROUND OF THE MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST OF FRANCE

REF: REFTEL BORDEAUX NO. 043 OF FEB 1, AND NO. 055 OF MAR 4, 1977

1. BORDEAUX: THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 1977
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS PROVED THAT JACQUES CHABAN-DELMAS WAS RIGHT
IN ANTICIPATING HIS SUCCESS IN BORDEAUX (HE WON 45,902 VOTES
OUT OF 88,166). HOWEVER, THE LEFTISTS ADDED 8 PERCENT TO THEIR
PREVIOUS SCORE AND WON 5 IMPORTANT LOCALITIES IN THE BORDEAUX
AREA. THEREFORE, CHABAN'S POSITION IS NOW WORSENERED IN BOTH THE
"CONSEIL REGIONAL" AND THE "COMMUNAUTE URBAINE DE BORDEAUX"
(CUB). THE SUCCESS OF THE LEFTISTS IN THE COMMUNITIES
SURROUNDING BORDEAUX DEPRIVES CHABAN-DELMAS OF HIS MAJORITY
IN THE CUB AND PUTS IN JEOPARDY HIS ACTION AS PRESIDENT IN BOTH
BODIES. THE OVERALL ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT AMONG THE LEFT, THE
SOCIALISTS ARE THE BIG WINNERS, THE COMMUNISTS RETAINING ONLY
ONE MUNICIPALITY AT BEGLES. ALTHOUGH THE SECOND ROUND WILL
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NOT CHANGE ANYTHING AS FAR AS BORDEAUX AND THE CUB ARE CONCERNED
THE PRESENT ELECTION PREPARES THE BASIS FOR THE 1978 LEGISLATIVE
ELECTIONS.

2. PERIGUEUX: THE SAME PATTERN WILL PROBABLY APPEAR IN THE
DORDOGNE AROUND PERIGUEUX, AS YVES GUENA, THE MAYOR AND RPR
DEPUTY OF THE DORDOGNE WHO EASILY RETAINED HIS MAYORALITY WILL

PROBABLY FIND HIMSELF ISOLATED AMONG LEFTISTS FOR THE 1978 ELECTIONS. THUS, GUENA, THE RPR'S SECRETARY GENERAL, COULD LOSE HIS SEAT AT THE ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE.

3. TOULOUSE: BI-POLARIZATION IS THE KEYWORD IN TOULOUSE. THE FIRST ROUND SHOWS A TOTAL SUFFRAGE OF 62,281 FOR THE MAJORITY AND 60,300 FOR THE OPPOSITION. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE SECTORIZATION OF THE CITY, THE FINAL RESULT WILL DEPEND ON THE SECOND ROUND. DEPUTY-MAYOR PIERRE BAUDIS, HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED IN HIS CONSERVATIVE SECTOR OF THE CENTER OF THE TOWN AND ALAIN SAVARY, THE SOCIALIST DEPUTY MIGHT BE DEFEATED IN THE SECOND ROUND NEXT SUNDAY AGAINST MARCEL CAVAILLE, (R.I.) MINISTER FOR TRANSPORTATION AND ASSISTANT MAYOR TO BAUDIS. A SMALL SHIFT IN THE VOTES FROM THE ECOLOGISTS PLUS BETTER PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS MIGHT CHANGE THE PRESENT FORECAST. MEANWHILE, THE LEFT HAS ALREADY WON 19 SEATS IN THE WEST SECTOR WITH 51,58 PERCENT OF THE VOTES.

4. PAYS BASQUE AND BEARN (P.A): THE RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL WORSENING OF THE ECONOMY IN THIS AREA ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN IMPORTANT SHIFT OF VOTES TO THE LEFT. IN OLORON, THE LEFTISTS WON ALL THE SEATS IN THE FIRST ROUND AND IN PAU, THE SOCIALIST MAYOR ANDRE LABARRERE WAS RE-ELECTED WITH 63 PERCENT OF THE VOTES. EVEN IN BIARRITZ, THE RPR DEPUTY, BERNARD MARIE, WILL RUN A SECOND ROUND AGAINST THE P.S CANDIDATE, DESTRADE.

5. LOT-ET-GARONNE: IN THE LOT ET GARONNE THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE RADICAUX DE GAUCHE, AND TWO OTHER PARTNERS OF THE UNION OF THE LEFT, THE P.S AND P.C (THAT WAS ALREADY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELECTION OF CHABAN-DELMAS AS THE HEAD OF THE CONSEIL UNCLASSIFIED

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REGIONAL D'AQUITAINE) SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME MORE MARKED WITH THE FAVORABLE RESULT OBTAINED BY SENATEUR BORDENAVE (R.G) IN VILLENEUVE-QNLOT AGAINST THE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COALITION.

6. THE GENERAL TENDENCY IN THE SUBJECT AREAS HAS BEEN A STRENGTHENING OF THE LEFT WHICH MAY FORECAST MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR THE FUTURE.MARVIN

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